

critical. I think bankers are going to use good judgment, I hope. I hope that...I know that Commonwealth needs it. I think there is some other provisions of the bill also that will allow the Department of Banking to provide for some emergency bonding. That may be critical to some of our banks. There are some provisions of the bill which I think may go farther than what the proponents of Initiative 300 wanted the bill to go because it states in the statute that the banks can acquire land, improve it, operate it, do what they need...anything they need to do with it, in other words, and I think it may, notwithstanding the opinion from the Attorney General, may conflict to a certain extent with Initiative 300, but these are not ordinary times and these are the kind of times which I think we need to take measures that are extraordinary. I know it is easy for some of us who have no concerns, no financial worries, to forget about the concerns of others but that is not our responsibility. It is our responsibility to take those extreme measures when necessary to help maintain the stability of the economic and financial system of this state and I want to say here again that I think the Department of Banking has probably got the toughest job they have ever had and probably got the best Banking Director we have had under these conditions for a long time, and this is not to speak disparagingly of any other Banking Director. But I think we need to give Mr. Beverage and his people the tools to work with to try to stabilize this economy but I want you to know what you are doing and I can tell from my conversations with some of you that you have not thoroughly researched or understood this bill. And I want it on the record that I know what I am doing so that a year from now or two years from now some rascal doesn't say that Legislature passed 653 and it resulted in a mass foreclosure of farmland and they didn't know what they were doing. I know what I am doing. I am taking a calculated risk and I am willing to take that risk and I am asking you to take that risk because it is necessary for the Department of Banking and the banking community in the State of Nebraska. I don't think it will backfire on us. If it does backfire, I have already told you, I am willing to ask the Department of Banking and the Governor to take actions to correct that. Senator DeCamp has asked me not to withdraw the amendment. He wants to make a comment and some of the rest of you might want to comment also because I know there are others here...I have talked to Senator Carsten and others about this and I know that they understand it, and if you would like to make a